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Radovan Karadžić enters the ICTY court room in The Hague, in The Netherlands

TRIAL OF RADOVAN KARADZIC BEGINS

The trial of Radovan Karadžić, the former leader of the Bosnian Serbs, began on 26th October. He faces 11 charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The incidents for which Mr Karadžić has been charged took place during a war in Bosnia between 1992 and 1995. Mr Karadžić insists he is not guilty.

In 1991 the country that was then called Yugoslavia was falling apart. It has now split into seven different countries – Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo. Together this area of Europe is often called 'the Balkans'.

The collapse of Yugoslavia led to several wars. Different groups within Yugoslavia were never really united. There was often great hostility among the different areas and between the Muslims and Christians who lived in them.

People living in what is now Serbia are known as Serbs. But Serbs also live in other Balkan countries that were once Yugoslavia. Mr Karadžić was the political leader of the Bosnian Serbs. The majority of people who live in Serbia, and the Bosnian Serbs, are Christians.

Mr Karadžić and his army commander, Ratko Mladić, began a war against Bosnian Muslims. The Bosnian Serb army, with help from members of the Serbian army, captured several Muslim towns. Some were destroyed. The people living in them were forced to leave.

Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, was attacked. The Bosnian Serb army fired large guns and **mortars** from the hills around Sarajevo into the city. This became known as the **siege** of Sarajevo. It lasted almost four years. Over 12,000 people were killed and 50,000 wounded. Most were civilians.

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The Bosnian Serb army also took over a Muslim area called Srebrenica. Soldiers separated out the men and women. Later around 8,000 Muslim men and boys were shot. This has become known as the Srebrenica massacre. It was the worst mass-murder in Europe since the Second World War (1939 – 1945).



The USA and several European countries became worried about what was happening in Bosnia. In 1995 Bill Clinton, then the president of the USA, got European Union (EU) member countries to agree to help attack the Bosnian Serb army. They used planes to make airstrikes. At a vote in the United Nations (UN), China and Russia refused to agree to this action. The airstrikes eventually helped to force the Bosnian Serb army to give up its attacks on Bosnian Muslims.

The USA arranged peace talks and the war came to an end. The peace deal was named the Dayton Agreement, after the town in the USA where it was signed.

After the end of the war Mr Karadžić and Mr Mladić were accused of war crimes. Both went into hiding. In July last year Mr Karadžić was found and arrested. He had disguised himself and changed his name. He had been living in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. He was taken by helicopter to a special prison in The

Hague, a city in the Netherlands. Mr Mladić has not yet been found.

The Hague is where the UN set up an international court in 1993. It is called the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Its job is to try **alleged** war criminals from countries that were part of Yugoslavia. This is where Mr Karadžić's trial is being held.

The ICTY is the first international organisation set up to deal with war crimes since just after the Second World War. Then, trials were held at Nuremberg, in Germany, and Tokyo, in Japan.

Mr Karadžić insisted he did not want any lawyers to work for him. He said he would defend himself. But he did not go to the court on the first day of his trial. Instead he sent a letter to the judge, O-Gon Kwai. Judge Kwai read the letter to the court. In it, Mr Karadžić said he needed much more time to prepare his defence.

Many families whose relatives had been killed at Srebrenica had travelled to The Hague to attend the beginning of the trial. They were angry it had been delayed.

On 3rd November Mr Karadžić appeared in the court for the first time. He claimed he needed at least ten months to go through all the documents to prepare his case. He said he would not come back to the court unless he was given extra time.

Some people worry that Mr Karadžić's trial may be similar to that of Slobodan Milošević, the former president of Serbia. He was also put on trial by the ICTY. There were many delays. Mr Milošević died from heart problems in 2006, before his trial ended.

So far over 140 people charged with war crimes have appeared before the ICTY. Many are now serving long prison sentences. ■

AFGHANISTAN ELECTION RESULT

On 2nd November it was declared that Hamid Karzai had won the presidential election in Afghanistan.

The election was held on 20th August. There were over 40 candidates. In Afghanistan if no-one gets more than 50% of the votes in a presidential election, a second vote or 'run off' has to take place. This is held between the two candidates who got the most votes. The last presidential election in Afghanistan was held in 2004. Hamid Karzai won.

Currently there are thousands of American and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) troops in Afghanistan. They are fighting the Taliban. The Taliban is a group that formerly ran Afghanistan. Its supporters believe the country should be run according to a very strict version of Islamic rules.



Hamid Karzai, president of Afghanistan

The USA led the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. It believed a militant group called al-Qaeda had military bases in the country. This group is supported by the Taliban. In September 2001 followers of al-Qaeda launched terrorist attacks on New York and Washington DC, the capital of the USA.

Because of the fighting, mountainous areas, and the size of Afghanistan, organising the recent election was very difficult. The Taliban had

also made threats to try to stop people voting. It said if it caught anyone taking part, Taliban members would cut off one of the person's fingers. NATO troops tried to make all areas of Afghanistan safe so people could vote.

After the election on 20th August it took a long time to count the votes. Although many people decided not to take part, thousands of votes were found to be fakes. People accused Mr Karzai of cheating. These included one of the other candidates, Dr Abdullah Abdullah.

Because of the number of fake votes no-one could work out the real result. Finally, on 21st October – two months after the election – officials announced Mr Karzai had got 49% of the votes and Dr Abdullah 30%.

This result meant there would have to be a run off election between Mr Karzai and Mr Abdullah. The date was set for 7th November. The American and NATO leaders were unhappy because they would have to make all the voting areas safe again.

On 1st November Mr Abdullah announced he had decided not to stand in the run off election. He claimed nothing had been done to stop the cheating and he was sure it would happen again.

The following day Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) arrived in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. He held talks with Mr Karzai and American and Afghan officials. It was decided that the run off election would be cancelled. Mr Karzai was then declared the winner.

Many people believe the election process in Afghanistan has created a very bad impression. The election, they say, was supposed to produce a lawful Afghan government.

Instead many say the country now has a president and a government that have not been democratically elected. ■

GIANT SPIDERS DISCOVERED

Scientists have officially announced the discovery a new giant spider species. The spiders, which are the world's largest web-spinning spiders, live in parts of Africa and Madagascar.

The new species is a type of golden silk orb-weaver spider. These spiders are named after the colour of their webs, which appear to be a yellow golden colour when in sunlight. Arachnologists – scientists who study spiders – think the colour of the spiders' webs help to attract their prey.



Orb-weaver spider

The leg span of the newly-discovered spider is 12 centimetres (five inches) in length. The female is up to five times larger than the male spider. The scientists think this is so she can lay lots of eggs and fight off predators. They say female spiders are rarer than males. The spiders usually eat insects but have been known to prey on small birds and bats. Scientists say the orb-weavers' webs are well-designed to catch large prey. The webs can be up to one metre (three feet) wide.

The scientists that found the spiders said they were surprised

to discover a new type of golden orb-weaver. Orb-weavers are well-known in many parts of the world. They are easy to identify because they are so big.

The new spiders were first spotted in a collection in a museum around ten years ago. The scientists realised these did not match other known species. When the scientists looked in other museums' collections to see if they could find a match, they were unsuccessful. They thought this type of orb-weaver may have become extinct.

The newly announced discovery was made in South Africa in 2007. This discovery, the scientists say, confirms the spiders still definitely exist in the wild, although they are very rare.

Many new types of spider are discovered each year. Yet a new species of golden orb-weaver spider has not been recorded for over 100 years. ■

NewsCast

WORLD RECORD DIP — Chefs in Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, set a new world record on 24th October. Around 300 of them worked together to make the world's largest bowl of hummus. Hummus is made with chickpeas, garlic, lemon juice and sesame paste. The chefs used 1,350 kilograms (3,000 pounds) of chickpeas and 400 litres (106 gallons) of lemon juice to make the record-breaking dish. The finished hummus weighed over two tonnes (4,500 pounds). Israel claims hummus is a traditional Israeli food. Yet Lebanese officials say it comes from Lebanon, which was one reason for making the giant hummus.

PUMPKIN MEDICINE

by Dr Carol Ballard

In the Northern hemisphere, pumpkins are harvested during September and October. One way people celebrate Hallowe'en – on 31st October – is to hollow out pumpkins to make lanterns. But a team of scientists from South Korea has now found another use for them. The scientists have discovered pumpkin skins contain a protein that can kill fungi. This means it might be possible to use pumpkins to treat fungal infections.

Pumpkins are a member of the Cucurbitaceae family, along with squashes, melons, cucumbers and courgettes. They are grown all around the world. Pumpkins can be eaten, used for animal feed, and made into decorations. In North America, food made from pumpkins is traditionally served at Thanksgiving and Hallowe'en celebrations.

Fungi are a group of microbes that includes yeasts, moulds and mushrooms. Some are made up of many cells, while others are single-celled organisms. Some fungi are useful. These types help in brewing beer, making wine, and baking bread. Fungi also produce some medicines, such as penicillin.

Other types of fungi can cause illness in humans, animals and plants. For example, athlete's foot, ringworm, and thrush in humans are caused by fungal infections. Some types of fungi damage crops such as potatoes. This can cause poor harvests and even food shortages. One example of this occurred in Ireland in the 1840s. Then fungal infections ruined the potato crop. At least one million people died from starvation. Tens of thousands left the country, many moving to the USA.

Many plants produce chemicals that protect them from attack by fungi. Scientists have done a lot of work to discover and extract these antifungal chemicals. Some have been found in plants such as maize, mung beans and sunflowers.

In Mexico, India, China and other countries pumpkin seeds and oil are used to treat some diseases. So scientists who want to find new medicines decided to study pumpkins. Some reported that pumpkin extracts could kill certain microbes.

The South Korean scientists decided to investigate further. They wanted to identify the chemicals in pumpkins that could attack fungi, and discover how they worked.

First, the scientists mashed up the rind, or skins, of pumpkins. Then they added this mushy liquid to bottles containing fungi. Later, they examined the bottles, and found the pumpkin liquid had stopped the fungi from growing.

The scientists then extracted and purified the protein chemicals found in pumpkin skin. They added samples of these proteins to dishes of fungi. The scientists discovered one particular protein was very good at stopping fungal growth. They named it Pr-2. The scientists tested Pr-2 against several different fungi. They found it stopped the growth of more than eleven of them.

Next, to discover how Pr-2 stopped fungal growth, they added a coloured dye around the fungi. The dye could not pass through the fungal cell walls or membranes, so the fungal cells appeared colourless.

Soon after the scientists added Pr-2 to the mixture, the fungal cells became coloured. The dye was getting through the cell walls and membranes. This meant the Pr-2 protein

must have caused damage to the cell walls and membranes of the fungi.

The scientists discovered Pr-2 stops the growth of fungi that cause common infections in humans. But for Pr-2 to be used as a type of medicine, it must be harmless to human cells. The scientists have now tested it with human skin and red blood cells. It did not seem to damage them. More testing will now be done, but this result suggests Pr-2 could be used as a natural medicine for stopping fungal infections.

Pr-2 also stops the growth of some fungi that infect crops. The scientists think it might be possible to treat crop plants with Pr-2 to protect them from fungi. Studying the genes of pumpkins may even make it possible to create genetically-modified crops that produce their own Pr-2.



Pumpkins

BATTLEFIELD IN WRONG PLACE

Historians have announced they can prove one of England's most famous battlefields is in the wrong place.

Bosworth Battlefield is in Leicestershire, in the middle of the UK. A very important battle in English history took place there in 1485. At the battle, the army of Henry Tudor defeated that of King Richard the Third.



The stone marking the spot where Richard the Third was previously believed to have been killed

In 1974 a large heritage centre was built near the battlefield. It explains what happened at the battle. Flags point out the places where the armies were gathered and visitors can walk around the battlefield. A memorial stone nearby marks the spot where it is thought King Richard was killed.

In the past there were lots of theories about where the battle took place. Local officials employed a historian to work out exactly where it was. This was so they could build the heritage centre in the right spot. The historian was sure his research led him to the correct place. Since then thousands of people have visited the heritage centre every year.

On 28th October Glenn Foard, a battlefield archaeologist, announced the heritage centre is in the wrong area. He said he could now prove the site where the Battle of Bosworth really took place was 3.2 kilometres (two miles) away.

For four years, Mr Foard and a small team of people have been studying old manuscripts written about the battle. They have also been looking at the [landscape](#), using metal detectors and taking soil samples.

Historians know there was an area of boggy ground – a marsh – close to the fighting. This was described in reports written soon after the battle. The marsh has now disappeared. Mr Foard and his team took soil samples from under the ground in many different places. They used these to discover where the marsh had been. Using metal detectors they also found 22 lead cannon and musket balls. A musket is an old type of hand-held gun. Mr Foard says the lead balls prove exactly where the battle happened.

The discovery of the lead cannon and musket balls was a surprise. Most historians believe the weapons that fired them were not used for the first time until ten years after the battle. The Battle of Bosworth was thought to have been fought with only swords and bows and arrows.

Bosworth Battlefield features in the last part of a well-known play by William Shakespeare – *Richard III*. Historians also use the date of the battle, 1485, to mark the end of the Middle Ages in England.

After the death of Richard the Third at the battle, Henry Tudor was crowned King Henry the Seventh of England. His [dynasty](#), the Tudors, included two of England's most famous monarchs – Henry the Eighth and Elizabeth the First.

Local officials say they have no plans to move the heritage centre to the new battlefield site. At the moment, the location of the real site is being kept secret. They want to make sure people don't go to the area and try to dig up historical artefacts. This is because these could

give historians more clues about the battle. Yet officials hope in future it will be possible to make a path to take visitors from the heritage centre to the newly-discovered site of the Battle of Bosworth. ■

NEW NASA ROCKET LAUNCHED

On 28th October NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) launched its first new spacecraft since 1980. The rocket, called Ares I-X, was a prototype – a test version of a rocket, with several 'dummy' parts.

The rocket took off from the Kennedy Space Center, in the state



Launch of Ares I-X rocket

of Florida, in the USA. After about two minutes it reached a height of 45 kilometres (28 miles) above the Earth's surface. The rocket then separated into two parts. The lower part, called the booster, came down in the Atlantic Ocean by parachute. Several ships were waiting there to [retrieve](#) it.

The booster had 700 sensors attached to it. These recorded important information during the rocket's short flight. The information will now be studied by NASA scientists to see what improvements should be made to the rocket.

The upper section of the Ares I-X rocket was a dummy part. It was made in the same shape, size and weight as the finalised parts will be. Yet it did not include any of the

NewsCAST

LIZARD LUNCH — Café owners in the UK got a surprise when opening a bag of salad vegetables. As well as salad leaves, the bag contained a lizard. The lizard was about 20 centimetres (eight inches) long – and alive. Experts identified it as a Lebanon lizard. The bag of salad, which had been refrigerated, had come from Israel. The experts said the lizard – who has been named Rocky – probably survived the cold by going into a state of hibernation. Now that Rocky has warmed up, the café owners say they are looking for a new home for the lizard.



expensive equipment. This part of the test rocket was destroyed when it fell into the ocean.

NASA plans to launch the real Ares I rocket in 2015. Then the upper part will include a capsule for the crew. The crew parts of the final rocket will be designed to be re-used. So once they have returned to Earth, they can be fitted onto another rocket.

Since 1980 NASA has been using Space Shuttles. These have been used to take people and parts to help build the International Space Station (ISS). But the Space Shuttles are now getting old. In 2003 one exploded when returning to Earth after a 16-day space flight. All its crew members were killed. After the accident George W Bush, who was then president of the USA, ordered NASA to start retiring the Space Shuttles and come up with a new space exploration plan.

The new plan was called the Vision for Space Exploration (VSE). It includes sending astronauts back to

the Moon, building a permanent settlement there, and exploring other planets such as Mars.

As part of the plan a new rocket was needed to launch astronauts and equipment into space. The Space Shuttle was designed to take equipment and supplies – called the payload – and the crew into space all at the same time. NASA's new plans are to use two different rockets. One, called Ares I, will carry the crew capsule and another larger rocket, Ares V, will carry the payload.

The Ares I-X rocket launched on 28th October was the first test flight for the building of the Ares I. The next one is expected to be called Ares I-Y.

However, some people have suggested there may be no more test flights. Barack Obama, the president of the USA, will soon decide whether NASA's plans should continue. Some experts believe Ares I is the wrong type of rocket. Others think there is no point in building a permanent space station on the Moon.

Another problem is money. Space programmes such as the VSE are very expensive. Currently, the American government is trying to reduce the amount of money it spends. Many people are therefore expecting President Obama to order NASA to change its VSE plan. ■

BAGHDAD BOMBINGS

Two large bombs exploded in the central part of Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, on 25th October.

After the American-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 the city of Baghdad became a very dangerous place. Different Iraqi militant groups fought each other and the American troops

that occupied the city. The new Iraqi police force, trained by American soldiers, was also targeted. It was not unusual for over 1,000 people to be killed every month in bombings and shootings. Many of those killed were civilians.

In 2007 George W Bush, then the president of the USA, sent thousands of extra American troops to Iraq. This became known as 'the surge'. Some people criticised President Bush for increasing the numbers of troops in Iraq. At the time many Americans wanted their government to withdraw all its soldiers from the country.



Nouri al-Maliki, prime minister of Iraq

After the surge, the number of bombings and shootings in towns and cities in Iraq, including Baghdad, decreased. Many thought the surge had been a success.

In June President Barack Obama ordered all American troops to withdraw to areas outside the main towns and cities. All security was passed to the new Iraqi army and police force. American commanders said if they received a request from Iraqi military leaders, they would return to help. Yet many think Iraq's leaders are reluctant to ask for help as it would give the impression they are no longer in control.

The two bombs killed 155 people. Over 700 others were injured. It was the worst bomb attack in Baghdad for over two years. Three government buildings were badly

damaged. The bombs were hidden in a van and a small bus driven by suicide bombers.

The street where the bombs were exploded was within the Green Zone. This describes an area of Baghdad where people are checked as they enter it. So many people were surprised the bombers had been able to get in. Some suspect the bombers had been renting a house within the Green Zone and had gradually **smuggled** small parts of the bombs past the checkpoints.

The bombers are thought to be supporters of al-Qaeda and the party of Saddam Hussein – the former leader of Iraq. Al-Qaeda is an anti-American militant group. Experts think it wants to prove the prime minister of Iraq, Nouri al-Maliki, is not in control of the country. Elections are due to be held in Iraq in January, but the politicians have been arguing about the details. Some think the bombers wanted to disrupt the elections and make sure they are not held.

President Obama plans to halve the number of American troops in Iraq by next August. Some experts say if there are more bombings this will be difficult to do. ■

NEW INTERNET ADDRESSES

Internet users will soon see a change in the way web addresses can be written. A meeting was held in Seoul, the capital South Korea, on 30th October, to announce the change. Officials declared that complete web addresses will now be allowed in non-Latin script.

Latin script is also known as Roman script – because it's the way of writing originally used by the Romans. To many people, Latin script is the familiar 26-letter alphabet

that begins with A and ends with Z. Since Roman times this alphabet has had several changes. For instance, the Romans did not use a W. They also wrote in what are now known as capital letters or upper-case letters. Our smaller, or lower-case letters, are a more recent invention.

After the fall of the Roman Empire many European countries continued to use Latin script. Later, people from Europe travelled to other parts of the world and set up colonies. They took their alphabet with them, so the use of Latin script has spread around the world.

Yet millions of people do not use Latin script. There are many other alphabets that use different characters, such as Korean, Cyrillic, Arabic, Hebrew and Sanskrit. Over one billion people use Mandarin or Chinese characters. Currently, part of internet addresses can be in other alphabets but top level domain names such as .com, .org and .net must be in Latin script.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is an organisation that was set up to control the use of internet address names. It is based in the state of California, in the USA. The organisation holds regular meetings in different cities around the world. It was at an ICANN meeting that officials made their announcement about internet domain names.

From 16th November ICANN will accept applications from different countries to use a non-Latin alphabet for domain names. At first these will be limited to only certain domain names, also known as country codes, such as .cn, .uk, .in, or .ca.

Eventually, it will be possible to have all domain names, including .com, in non-Latin script. Mandarin and Cyrillic alphabets are expected to be the first to be approved.

Some experts say the use of other alphabets for domain names will increase security problems on the internet. They believe most domain names are now easily recognisable and it is not necessary for them to be in different alphabets. Others argue that the internet is supposed to be 'the world wide web', for use by everyone in the world. They say allowing domain names in other alphabets makes the internet more welcoming to people from all countries. ■

NAZCA CIVILISATION MYSTERY SOLVED?

An archaeologist has published new research that may explain why the Nazca civilisation disappeared. He believes it is to do with some bad farming decisions...and the weather.



Nazca lines: aerial photograph of spider figure

Archaeologists believe the Nazca civilisation began around 2,000 years ago. But by about 600 years later, the Nazca had disappeared.

The Nazca people lived in two river valleys in an area that is now part of southern Peru. They produced beautiful **ceramics** and textiles. They also made underground water channels, some of which still

work today. Yet the Nazca people are best known for figures and lines they created on the ground, called geoglyphs. Known as the Nazca lines, some are ordinary geometrical shapes. Others are complex and the size of football pitches. They include figures of fish, monkeys, birds and spiders.

The figures were made by clearing pebbles on the desert floor so the earth beneath them is visible. What is strange about them is that they cannot be recognised from the ground. The only way to see them is from high in the sky. No-one knows what they were made for. Some people even believe the lines were made as signs to aliens who visited the Nazca people.



Nazca lines: aerial photograph of bird figure

Archaeologists have investigated several Nazca settlements in the past. It seems that from around 500AD the length of the people's lives got shorter and shorter. Many believe the Nazca civilisation was badly affected by extreme El Niño events.

El Niño is a weather pattern that brings very heavy rains and flooding to parts of South America. It also affects the weather in other areas of the world. Scientists do not fully understand what causes El Niños. They seem to happen when the seawater in the southern Pacific Ocean gets warmer than usual. El Niño means 'the child' in Spanish. People have given it this name

because it normally arrives around Christmas – when, in the Christian tradition, Jesus was born. El Niños do not happen every year. Some are 'stronger' and cause more unusual weather and damage than others.

Dr Beresford-Jones is an archaeologist at Cambridge University, in the UK. His research says although the valleys where the Nazca people lived are now desert, they used to be covered in huarangos – a type of tree. The Nazca used the trees for building and fuel. They also cut them down to clear the land so they could grow crops such as maize and cotton.

Huarango trees have deep roots. This meant they would have stopped the soil from being eroded, or washed away, during El Niño floods. Dr Beresford-Jones thinks the Nazca people cut down too many of the trees. Without the huarango trees to hold the soil in place, floods could wash it away. Over time the Nazca were no longer able to grow enough food to support their settlements.

Some people have commented that the disappearance of the Nazca civilisation should be a warning. They say it shows what could happen if too many trees are cut down. ■

WORLD'S LARGEST PASSENGER SHIP

The building of the world's largest cruise ship has just been completed. The ship is called *Oasis of the Seas*. It set sail from a port in Finland on 30th October.

Oasis of the Seas is as high as a 20-storey building. It has 2,700 cabins and can carry 6,300 passengers. It was constructed in Finland by the STX Europe Company, part

of a South Korean international shipbuilding organisation. The ship cost US\$1.5 billion (£910 million) to build.

An American company called Royal Caribbean International owns the ship. This company runs holiday cruises around the Caribbean islands. The new ship will be based in Florida, in the USA.



Oasis of the Seas

Royal Caribbean has 21 ships, which all have names ending in 'of the Seas'. *Oasis of the Seas* is almost twice as big as any of the company's other cruise ships. When sailing, it will have over 2,000 crew members on board.

Oasis of the Seas took two years to build. It contains an ice rink, a golf course and two theatres. The indoor theatre seats 1,300 people. The outdoor theatre has been designed to be similar to an Ancient Greek amphitheatre. It seats 750 people. During the day it becomes a swimming pool with high diving boards. The ship also has three other large swimming pools.

The ship's designers have included seven different 'neighbourhoods' on board. Each neighbourhood has parks and squares and a different theme. For example, one is a tropical neighbourhood with palm trees and vines. Another is called Central Park. This neighbourhood has shops, restaurants and bars. Some people have described the new cruise ship as 'a floating theme park'.

The ship's owners say it has been designed to be 'environmentally friendly'. It reuses waste water and does not dump any sewage into the sea. The owners also claim it uses much less oil than older, smaller cruise ships.

But environmentalists have criticised the building of such huge ships. They say the large amount of fuel they burn creates air pollution. Other critics think it is a bad idea for thousands of passengers to get off the ship at the same time when it docks at small Caribbean islands. They argue that the sudden arrival of thousands of tourists on small islands can damage local environments.

To sail from Finland to Florida *Oasis of the Seas* had to pass under the Great Belt Fixed Link – a huge bridge that connects two of Denmark's main islands. As it approached the bridge on 1st November the ship speeded up so it would sink lower in the water. The ship's smokestacks, or funnels, are [telescopic](#). These were lowered. The ship managed to pass under the bridge, but with only 0.3 metres (one foot) to spare.

The first passengers are expected to board *The Oasis of the Seas* at the beginning of December. Officials at Royal Caribbean say most of the tickets for the ship's first cruise have already been sold. ■

NEW AGREEMENT ANGERS SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES

On 30th October the governments of Colombia and the USA signed an agreement. This deal allows American troops to use seven Colombian military bases. Several other South American countries are angry about the agreement.

Álvaro Uribe is the president of Colombia. He is popular and has twice been elected president. Many people say the main reason for his popularity is because he is determined to defeat a militant group in the country called the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – also known as FARC.

FARC has been trying to take over Colombia for 40 years. It operates from secret military bases in the jungle. The group is also involved with selling cocaine, an illegal drug. FARC supporters make the drug from the coca plant that grows in the jungle. Most of the cocaine made in this way is then smuggled into the USA. Much of the money FARC makes from selling cocaine is used to buy weapons.

The American government wants to stop this illegal drug trade. So it wants to help the Colombian government defeat FARC. President Uribe has said that Colombian forces will only be able to finally beat the FARC militants if they have help from the USA.



Álvaro Uribe, president of Colombia

Colombia is one of only a few South American countries happy to work with the USA. Many others are anti-American. Their leaders accuse the USA of [interfering](#) in their countries in the past and suspect it has plans to control their resources, such as oil and gas.

Anti-American South American leaders include President Hugo

NewsCAST

TASTE OF THE FUTURE — A coffee shop company in Israel has hired a fortune-teller as a new member of staff to look in the bottom of people's cups. The fortune-teller claims to be able to 'read' the leftover coffee grounds and predict what will happen in the future to the person who drank the coffee. The coffee shop company's fortune-teller will teach the café's staff how to read coffee grounds. The staff will then provide a fortune-telling service to their customers free of charge. The company is hoping its new service will encourage more people to visit its cafés.

Chávez of Venezuela, President Evo Morales of Bolivia and President Rafael Correa of Ecuador. All of these leaders are popular in their own countries. Brazil has also said it is unhappy about Colombia's deal with the USA.

On 28th October Venezuelan troops near the border of Colombia, were ordered by President Chávez to be on alert. He claims the agreement signed between Colombia and the USA is similar to a declaration of war. He insists the USA is planning to use the Colombian military bases for an attack on his country. President Chávez, who has recently bought large amounts of military equipment from Russia, has also accused Colombia of sending spies to Venezuela.

The American government says its troops in Colombia will only be there to help Colombian forces stop FARC smuggling illegal drugs into the USA. It insists the US troops will not be allowed to operate in any other South American countries. ■

OIL LEAK STOPPED

On 3rd November experts announced they had managed to stop an under-sea oil leak in the Timor Sea, off the north west coast of Australia.

Oil was first noticed seeping up through the seabed under an oil platform on 21st August. The leak happened in a piece of equipment in an oil well around 3,000 metres (9,850 feet) below the bottom of the sea. The oil platform is owned by a company from Thailand.



Aerial photograph of the oil platform in the Timor Sea showing the fire and the trail of the oil leak

To try to fix the problem, specialist workers had to drill another well down to the leaking one. This took a long time. Oil continued to seep through the seabed. Authorities reported that around 400 barrels of oil a day were leaking into the sea. A barrel is a unit used to measure amounts of oil. One barrel is equal to around 159 litres (42 American gallons). Environmentalists were concerned about how the oil would affect marine life in the area.

It was not until the end of October that the drilling of the second well had been completed. Experts then tried to pump tens of thousands of litres of heavy liquid mud into the place where the leak was, to try to block it.

On 2nd November, after the fourth attempt to plug the leak, a fire broke out on the oil platform. Gas escaping from the leak underground had travelled up the well pipe to the oil platform and caught fire. All the workers still on the platform were evacuated as soon as the fire broke out.

At first many people thought the fire would stop any more attempts to stop the oil leak. But the experts said plugging the oil leak would stop the gas leaking as well. This would make the fire go out. On 3rd November, more mud was pumped into the leaking well. This time it worked. The oil stopped leaking and the fire went out.

Environmentalists estimate the oil that has leaked over ten weeks has polluted about 15,000 square kilometres (5,800 square miles) of the sea, and described this as a disaster. The polluted part of the Timor Sea is home to whales, dolphins and turtles as well as many different types of sea birds.

The Australian government has announced an investigation will now take place. The government says it is important to find out what caused the oil to start leaking in August. ■

TIGER PROTECTION PLAN

Between 27th and 30th October, the Global Tiger Workshop took place in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. Around 200 representatives from many different countries attended. The meeting was held to discuss how to protect all tiger species.

The event was organised by a group called the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI). The GTI estimates there were more than 100,000 wild tigers 100 years ago. Now, it believes, there are only 3,500 left.

One of the main threats to wild tigers is a loss of habitat. This means humans are changing the places where tigers live by turning their habitats into farmland.



Bengal tiger

Another problem is poaching. Hunting tigers has been banned. The buying and selling of tiger body parts, such as tiger skins, is also against the law. Yet some people still hunt tigers illegally to sell their skins.

Chinese officials attending the Tiger Workshop think farming tigers would be a good idea. Some tiger farms already exist. People who agree with this idea argue that farming tigers to provide skins and body parts would stop people illegally hunting wild tigers. But others disagree. They say farming tigers will make people believe it is acceptable to buy and sell tiger body parts.

The Chinese calendar has a 12-year cycle. Each year is named after an animal. 2010 will be the Year of the Tiger. Some people worry there will be more demand for gifts of tiger skins and other body parts in countries that use the Chinese calendar. This means even more tigers could be illegally killed.

Officials from countries that have wild tigers took part in the Global Tiger Workshop. All already have tiger protection plans. In June, for example, India banned tourists from entering several different places where tigers are known to live. Experts say

NewsCAST

'CRAZY' WINNER — Competitors from several different countries travelled to Hastings, in the UK, on 25th October to take part in the World Crazy Golf championships. Crazy golf is also called mini golf. Players have to hit a golf ball into a hole through various different hazards such as ramps, mazes, bumps and even windmills. Over 80 players took part in the championships. Windy, rainy weather made the competition even more difficult. The golfer who won the championship was a man from the UK. He was awarded a prize of £1,000 (US\$1,645).

human activity in these places can have a bad affect on the tiger's breeding and hunting behaviour.

The Global Tiger Workshop wrote a list of recommendations for countries to save their wild tigers. It hopes these will be followed and that wild tigers will no longer be an endangered species by 2020. ■

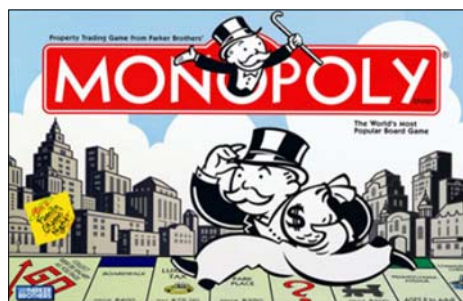
WORLD MONOPOLY CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 22nd October Bjorn Halvard Knappskog, a student from Norway, was crowned World Monopoly Champion. The championship competition took place in Las Vegas, in the USA.

Monopoly is a board game. Players move around the board landing on squares named after different places. All players start the game with an amount of money given to them by the game's 'bank'. They can use this money to buy places and begin 'building' houses and hotels on the square. Different squares

are worth different amounts of money. When another player lands on a square, he or she has to pay money to the player who owns it. If the square has houses or hotels on it, the player has to pay more money. Players compete to see who can make the most money.

Monopoly was invented in the USA in 1935. Today the board game is sold in over 100 different countries. There are many different versions and translations. In some versions, the squares are named after streets in famous cities such as London, the capital of the UK. Another version has squares that represent well-known world cities. The company that makes the game, Hasbro, says 275 million copies of Monopoly have been sold since it began.



Monopoly box

Forty-one people travelled to the USA from different countries to compete in the championship. **Interpreters** were at the event to help competitors speak with each other if they did not use the same language.

The first championship was held in New York, in the USA, in 1973. The most recent one took place five years ago in Tokyo, the capital of Japan. It was won by Antonio Zafra Fernandez, from Spain. This time, he reached the semi-final.

The three other competitors in the final game were from the USA, New Zealand and Russia. Bjorn Halvard Knappskog is 19 years old. He is the youngest-ever person to win

the competition. His winner's prize was US\$20,580 (£12,500) – the exact amount of money in the 'bank' of a standard Monopoly game in the USA. ■

PRESERVING CORALS

An environmental organisation has announced a plan to save the Earth's coral reefs. The organisation believes all the world's coral reefs are likely to die out within the next 40 years. Its plan is to preserve samples of all the corals by freezing them.

Marine biologists – scientists who study the ocean and its wildlife – say the Earth's coral reefs are in great danger. A coral reef is a marine environment created by living things called coral polyps. The polyps build a type of hard skeleton around themselves. Millions of these skeletons joined together form a coral reef.

Other marine life can grow and live on coral reefs. They support a wide variety of fish and plant species as well as other ocean life such as starfish, sea urchins and octopuses. Marine scientists say one very important thing about coral reefs is the **diversity** of the ocean species that live on them. So the death of a coral reef will affect many other types of marine creatures and plants.

Scientists say coral reefs are being affected by global warming and the increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere. The extra carbon dioxide comes from burning fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas. It traps the Sun's energy, which increases the temperatures of the air and sea. Warmer seas can kill some types of coral.

The world's oceans absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

This makes the water slightly acidic. The extra carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is making the oceans even more acidic. This is also harming the coral and slowing its growth.



Coral reef

Marine biologists warn that many countries' current plans to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are not enough to save many coral reefs. If global warming is halted and the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere decrease in the future, biologists say it may then

be possible to re-introduce corals to the oceans.

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) will keep the frozen samples. It says it will set up a 'coral cryobank'. There are around 3,350 types of cold-water coral and 1,800 tropical corals. The plan is to freeze 1,000 samples of each type. A scientific organisation in the USA is now also thinking of setting up a similar coral bank. ■

BREAKFAST ON THE BRIDGE

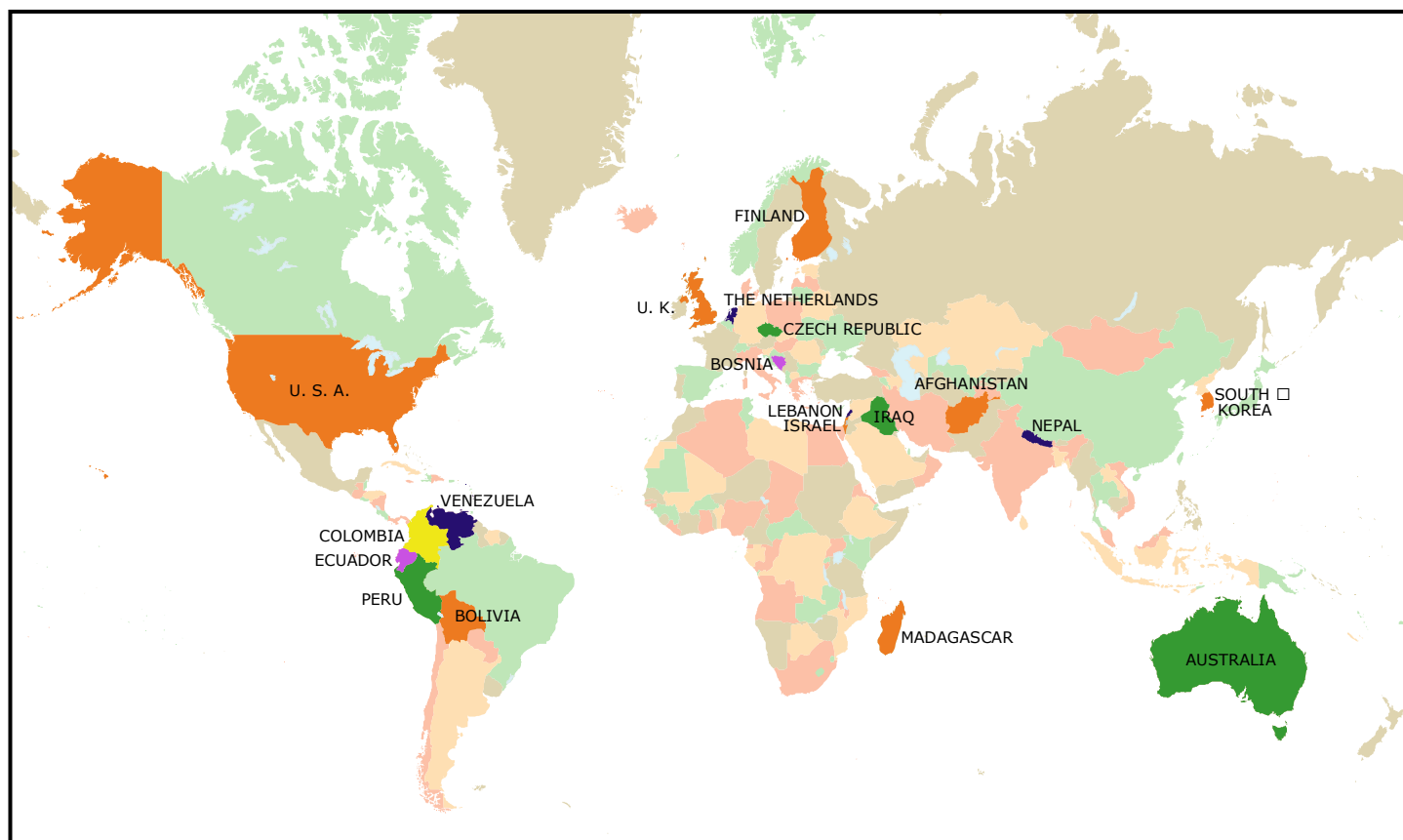
On 25th October, 6,000 people (and 15 cows) had a breakfast picnic in an unusual place – the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The Sydney Harbour Bridge is one of the world's most famous landmarks. It joins the northern and southern shores of the harbour

of Sydney, Australia's largest city. Construction of the bridge began in 1924. It was officially opened eight years later.

The Bridge is a main road in and out of the city of Sydney. It has eight lanes of traffic. It also carries a railway line. People pay to travel into the city using the Bridge. When the Bridge was first opened, it cost six pence for a car to cross it. The cost now is just over three Australian dollars (£1.64). In 1932, the number of cars and trucks crossing the Bridge was around 11,000 a day. Today it is about 160,000.

On the morning of the breakfast picnic the Bridge was closed to cars. The trains continued to run. The road lanes were covered with a grass-like covering for people to sit on and enjoy their picnic. The breakfast took place between 6.30 and 8.30 in the morning.



The 'Breakfast on the Bridge' organisers set up a website for the event. They used the website to suggest ways of preparing healthy food for the picnic. The picnic was one of several events held to promote the city of Sydney and its arts and culture.

Around 45,000 people applied to go on the picnic. Of these, 6,000 were chosen by a special **ballot**. The cows were brought onto the Bridge for a milking display. The organisers also served some local foods to the picnickers.

Some people who went on the picnic said it was a 'moment in history'. They said they especially enjoyed the feeling of community it gave them.



Sydney Harbour Bridge

The city authorities said news of the breakfast had appeared in newspapers and television broadcasts in many different countries. This meant the picnic had given Sydney lots of publicity. The authorities hope the event will encourage more tourists to visit the city. 'Breakfast on the Bridge' was so popular it is now expected to become an annual event. ■

ANOTHER WORD FOR...

A book has just been published that has taken 44 years to write. The *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary* has 3,952 pages, in two **volumes**. A team of 230 people helped to complete the new book.

A thesaurus is like a dictionary, as it is a book that contains words listed in alphabetical order. But unlike a dictionary, it does not give the **definitions** of the words. Instead it gives a list of words that could be used to mean the same thing. These are called synonyms. For example, a synonym for the verb 'to like' is 'to enjoy'. A thesaurus also often lists antonyms. These are words with the opposite meaning of the word listed. An antonym for 'to like' is 'to dislike'.

The longest list of synonyms in the new book is for the word 'immediately'. The thesaurus lists 265 other words that mean the same thing. In total the book lists around 920,000 words.

The *Historical Thesaurus* isn't quite the same as an ordinary one, though. It still contains words with their synonyms, but it also lists words we don't use any more. Some of the words in the book haven't been used in regular spoken English for 1,300 years! So the book is also a history of words that have been used for different things over the centuries.

The English language has developed and changed over hundreds of years. Old English is now very difficult for us to understand because many of the words used hundreds of years ago have been replaced with different ones.

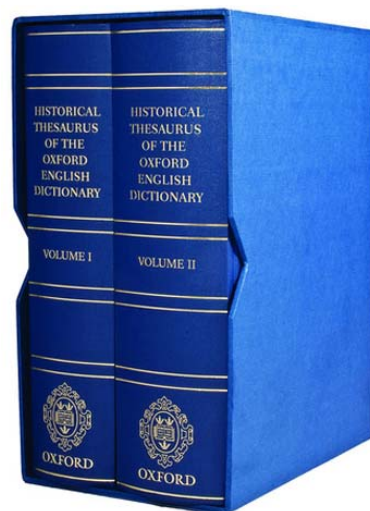
The book gives the date of when each word became commonly used in the English language. This means

it is possible to find out which words have lasted the longest. The team that created the book says around 7,000 words are still commonly used that go back to the beginnings of the English language – in around 700AD.

Language experts are very excited about the book. They say it is going to be a very useful tool for people who want to study how language changes and develops.

The thesaurus was first started in 1965. One of its editors began working on the book when she was 27 years old. She is now 69.

The book costs £275 (US\$452). The publisher, Oxford University Press, says it is the largest thesaurus in the world. ■



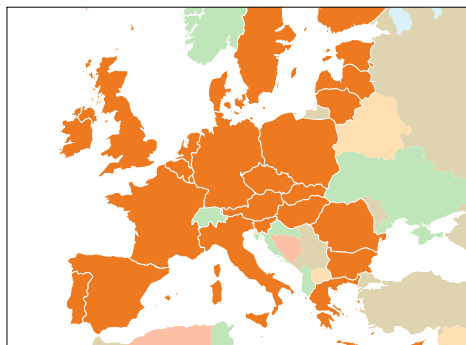
LISBON TREATY BECOMES LAW

On 3rd November, an agreement called the Lisbon Treaty was signed by Vaclav Klaus, the president of the Czech Republic. He was the last leader of the European Union's (EU) 27 member countries to sign it. The Treaty will now become law in all EU countries on 1st December.

The Lisbon Treaty has caused many arguments. It is named after the capital of Portugal, where the leaders of all EU member countries met in 2007 to agree to a new treaty. Each country had to get its parliament to hold a vote to approve it. Once that had been done, the leaders would officially sign it.

The Lisbon Treaty changes the way that many decisions will be

made in the EU. In the past all important decisions had to be agreed to by all members. If one member did not agree, it could block the decision. This is known as a [veto](#). Now there will be no vetoes. Instead decisions will be made by 'majority voting'. For example, if 25 members vote for a decision and two vote against it, the decision will still become law.



■ European Union member country

Many people support the Treaty. They argue that as more countries joined the EU, the veto system meant it was difficult to make any decisions. But others, who dislike the Treaty, say it takes important decision-making away from their own parliaments.

In 2004 EU leaders proposed a new EU constitution – a new set of rules that would change how the EU was run. Some EU member countries had to get approval for this by holding referendums in their own countries. Referendums are votes in which all adults can take part. The people of France and The Netherlands voted 'no' to the proposed constitution. Other countries then decided not to hold referendums. Their votes would not make any difference as every EU country had to vote 'yes' for the new constitution to become law.

EU leaders then proposed a treaty about how the EU is run, instead of a constitution. Many people complained. They argued the treaty was exactly the same as the constitution

that had been proposed before. All that had changed, they claimed, was the name.

Ireland was the only country out of the 27 EU members that held a referendum on the new treaty. The other countries' rules say their governments can make a decision on a treaty without holding a referendum. Ireland's referendum was held in 2008. The Irish people voted 'no'. Another referendum was held last month. This time they voted 'yes'.

The governments of Poland and the Czech Republic had voted for the Treaty. But the two countries' presidents were reluctant to sign it. They disagreed with how it would change decision-making in the EU. Lech Kaczyński, the president of Poland, signed the Treaty a few weeks ago. This left the president of the Czech Republic as the last EU leader to sign.

Now all EU countries have signed the Lisbon Treaty, two new important positions will be created. One is the 'President of Europe' and the other is an EU foreign minister. A foreign minister makes decisions about how a country will deal with other countries. EU leaders will decide on who is given these jobs within the next few weeks.



Vaclav Klaus, president of the Czech Republic

Those who support the EU believe it is important for its members to work together. Those who dislike it claim it is undemocratic. They say the EU should just exist to

NEWSCAST

DOES IT BOUNCE? — A museum in the USA will soon have a new exhibit – a huge rubber band ball. A truck and a crane were needed to collect the ball from the man who made it. The ball is almost 2.1 metres (seven feet) in diameter. It took six years to make. When the ball got too big for ordinary rubber bands, the man made use of larger ones used in [physiotherapy](#). The ball, which weighs as much as a small car, was listed as the world's biggest rubber band ball by the *Guinness Book of World Records* in 2008.

make trade among members easier. They believe the EU should not be allowed to take important political decisions on behalf of the member countries. ■

GLOBAL GREEN CHALLENGE

On 28th October a team of engineers from Japan crossed the finish line to win an unusual car race called the Global Green Challenge.

The race was held in Australia. It began on 24th October and 35 competitors took part. The competitors raced their vehicles over a distance of 3,000 kilometres (1,875 miles). The other cars in the race crossed the finish line during the following few days after the winning entry.

Two different types of cars take part in the Global Green Challenge. Some enter the World Solar Challenge, and the others the Eco Challenge.

In the Eco Challenge, all the cars are made to be run on renewable or alternative energy sources. They are designed to produce low

greenhouse gas emissions and to use as little fuel as possible. Some of the cars used both fossil fuel and alternative energy. These are known as **hybrids**.

Cars taking part in the World Solar Challenge are powered only by solar energy – light energy from the Sun.

The winning car in the Solar Challenge was designed by engineers from Tokai University, in Japan. Their car had solar cells on top. These converted energy from the Sun's rays into energy that powered the car's motor.

The car, called the Tokai Challenger, had a flat tyre about 200 kilometres (125 miles) from the finish line. Yet it was already so far ahead it didn't matter, and the Tokai Challenger still won the race.

One competitor completed the Eco Challenge on a motorbike. He and his father **modified** it so the engine would run on alcohol instead of fossil fuel. The motorbike used a lot of alcohol – about five litres (1.3 gallons) for every 100 kilometres (62 miles). But its rider explained that alcohol used as a fuel produces few greenhouse gasses.



Tokai Challenger

Other important events happened during the Global Green Challenge race. An electric car called the Tesla Roadster set a new record for the longest distance driven by an electric car from one 'charge'. The team charged up the car's battery

and drove just over 500 kilometres (312 miles) before it needed to be charged again. This beat the previous record by over 113 kilometres (70 miles). ■

SEA MONSTER FOSSIL

Palaeontologists – scientists who study dinosaurs – have pieced together the fossilised skull of a huge 'sea monster'. The fossil comes from a large undersea creature that lived around 150 million years ago. It was found in rocks on the south coast of the UK.

The scientists announced that the skull belongs to a pliosaur. These giant reptiles hunted their prey in the sea. The pliosaur had a crocodile-like head with very sharp teeth. Palaeontologists think pliosaurus fed on other large marine creatures.

The parts of the skull were first found by Kevan Sheehan, who looks for fossils as a hobby. He found several fossilised bones under a cliff that is crumbling away. He took them to an expert who realised they were parts of a pliosaur skull.

Over the next five years Mr Sheehan returned to the bottom of the cliff almost every day. Over time he found more and more parts of the skull as they fell out of the rocks above. He then began piecing them together. Now only a small part of the front of the skull is missing. Palaeontologists think the missing part might have been in rocks that fell off the cliff around 50 years ago.

The fossilised skull is 2.4 metres (eight feet) long. Scientists say it is unusual to have such a well-preserved pliosaur skull to study. Often when they are found, the skulls are 'flattened', but this skull is still

three-dimensional, so it shows how thick the jawbones are.

Scientists can now make estimates about the power of the jaws. They can also work out how big the pliosaur's muscles must have been to support its jaw bones. One scientist said he thought this pliosaur would have been able to bite a car in half.



Artist's impression of a pliosaur

Palaeontologists believe the dinosaur was around 20 metres (65 feet) long. It's possible, they say, that the fossilised skeleton of the body is deep in the rocks where the skull was found. Yet there are no plans to dig for it. Instead the fossil may appear in future years as more of the cliff's rocks crumble away. A museum has bought the fossil. Experts will now study it and prepare it to go on display. This preparation is expected to take 12 months. ■

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Editor: Amber Thody

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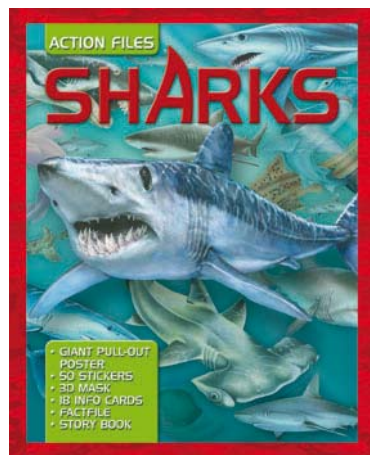
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B O O K R E V I E W

HAVE YOU READ ...?



is filled with realistic, colourful artwork and some photographs of sharks. Did you know there are about 375 species of sharks, and that sharks have been on earth for about 400 million years – since before the earliest dinosaurs? All sharks are carnivores, but not all of them are hunters – many are really scavengers. One of my favourite sharks is the carpet shark, or wobbegong shark, of South Australia. It has a frilly mouth, an unusual carpet-like design upon its body, and lies in wait for prey on the ocean floor.

This book also includes fish that are related to sharks. These relatives share similarities, such as skeletons of cartilage instead of bone. These other creatures are rays, skates and chimaeras. It is hard to believe that skates and rays are related to sharks, as they don't seem to resemble sharks in the slightest – on the outside, at least, because of their flattened shapes. Each description in the book is short, but tells the facts the way your science teacher might explain them.

There are also details on the constant threat of extinction to sharks, due to overfishing, toxic waste, hunting for sport – and even hunting sharks for food and shark liver oil! The book continues by explaining ways that humans can save sharks, such as ecotourism and establishing marine reserves. Though many people are afraid of sharks, our species is more of a threat to theirs than they are to us.

The book comes with 18 information cards in a box. Each card lists information about a different shark's size, the depth and world location of its habitat, its markings, teeth, diet, special features, and danger level (the threat to divers who go into the sharks' habitats). There is also

a long pull-out poster of several noted shark species such as the sand tiger shark, zebra shark, whale shark (one of the friendliest species – it eats shrimp and is approachable by divers), and the hammerhead shark (one of the oddest looking sharks). My favourite picture is of the goblin shark, which has a long snout, grows up to three metres (10 feet) long, and eats deep-sea fish and squid. According to its card, it poses no risk of attack to humans.

This book also provides a helpful website – www.factsforprojects.com. Here you will find charts, games, videos and more. When I clicked on 'anatomy: sharks', I found a very detailed cross-section of a shark's skeleton with labels, which could be enlarged and downloaded. There are also links to even more detailed websites.

The second book in this set is *Shark Attack*. This is a small, exciting mini-novel by Christine Kidney. The story is about Jack, a 12-year-old shark enthusiast who gets more than he bargained for when he wins a competition and gets to go down in a diving cage on live television, and comes face-to-face with a Great White! You can put your shark stickers in this story book.

Sharks is a great resource for writing a science report. The fact book is meant for reference instead of something to read from cover to cover. I also enjoyed the facts in the mini-novel, which I read in one sitting. Some descriptions in the fact book have some advanced vocabulary, making it better for readers of age nine and up. Yet the mask, poster and cards would be interesting to learners of age six and up.

Action Files: Sharks by Camilla de la Bedoyer. 2008. Dolphin Books/Miles Kelly Publishing Ltd.

Reviewed by **Craig Purdon**

WANT US TO REVIEW A BOOK THAT YOU HAVE READ AND ENJOYED?

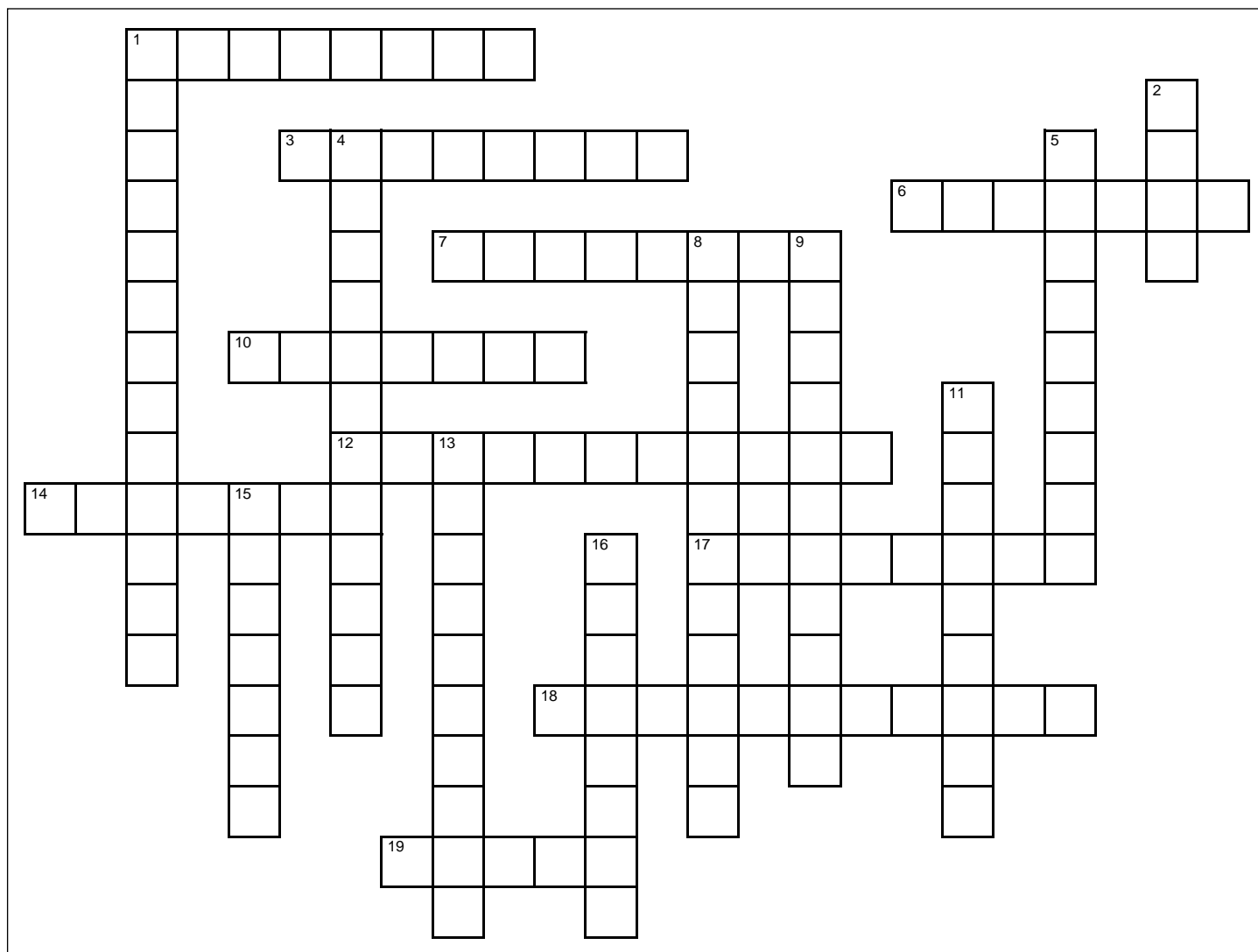
If you do, look for the 'recommended book' link in your subscriber menu when you log in to our website.

Complete the form and tell us why you enjoyed the book. If we review your choice, we'll mention your name and include some of your comments.

GLOSSARY

PRIZE COMPETITION

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword find the 20 words in the word search on the next page ➡



Across

- 1 Verb** Killing and stealing animals or fish from someone else's land or a protected area
3 Noun (Plural) Pottery objects, often bowls, tiles or figures
6 Noun A line of powerful people or rulers from the same family
7 Verb Removed harmful substances from something
10 Noun (Plural) Things that are made by combining two different things
12 Verb Getting involved in something where you are not welcome
14 Noun (Plural) Guns that have a wide barrel for firing bombs high up into the air
17 Verb To get or bring something back
18 Noun An inactive state
19 Noun The surrounding of a place by a military force to defeat those who are defending it

Down

- 1 Noun** The treatment of a weakness or disease by exercises or massage
2 Noun A vote that blocks a decision
4 Verb Setting up or creating
5 Noun A view of a particular area of countryside or town
8 Noun (Plural) People whose job it is to translate what someone is saying from one language into another
9 Noun (Plural) Statements that explain what a phrase or word means
11 Noun A wide variety of different things or people
13 Adjective Having parts that slide one within another
15 Adjective Claimed to be
16 Verb Changed something to improve it or make it more acceptable

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